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Environmental
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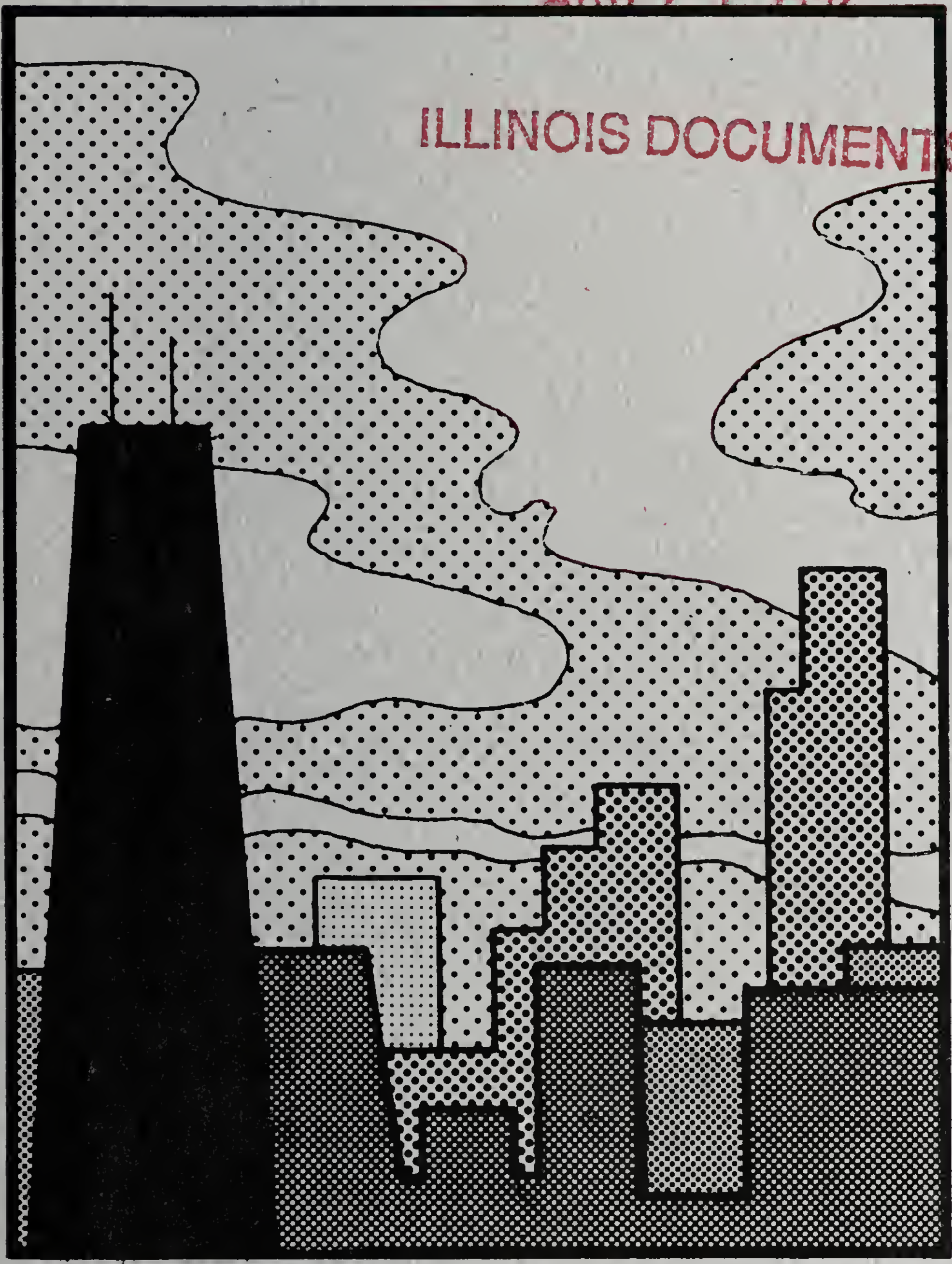

Bureau of Air

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The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC) is responsible for implementing and enforcing regulations to assure that the air we breathe is clean. The division's purpose is to find, correct and control air pollution hazards and prevent them from developing in areas with good air quality. The IEPA is concerned with many pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulates, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, hydrocarbons and lead.

The basic strategy in improving air quality requires controlling the amount of pollutants emitted by industry and motor vehicles. This strategy involves: identifying emission sources, imposing limitations on the amount of emissions in the air, monitoring the air, testing the efficiency of the pollution control system along with technological feasibility and economic worth, and taking enforcement action against violators of the rules and regulations to bring them into compliance.

PERMIT SECTION

Permits are required in Illinois prior to construction and operation of emission sources and control equipment. The permit program provides a consistent and systematic way of ensuring that air emission sources are built and operated in compliance with air pollution control regulations.

In a permit application the IEPA requires: a description of the emission source, a list of types and amounts of the contaminants which will be emitted, and a description of the emission control equipment to be utilized. This information is used to determine if the emissions comply with standards adopted by the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Operating permits are granted for periods up to five years, after which they must be renewed. After July 1993, operating permits for

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maller facilities may run indefinately. When a facilty constructs a new emission source or makes modifiations to existing emission sources, it must apply for new construction permit.

To obtain a permit in an area where air quality neets the standards, a large pollution source must lemonstrate that an increase of air pollution will not ause significant damage to the existing air quality. he new plant must also use the most effective polluion control technology available; and in some cases, a ublic hearing must be held before a permit is ranted.

To obtain a permit to locate a new source in an rea with air quality violations, existing air pollution n the area must be reduced by an amount greater han what will be added by the new source. For these arge sources, an air quality analysis must show that ir quality will be better after construction than beore.

FIELD OPERATIONS SECTION

The field operations section investigates air polluion sources and works with industry to control emisions at their allowable limit. The two major funcions of the field operations staff are:

1. to locate and identify air pollution sources and etermine the amount of pollution they emit, and (2) erify the information that industry submits when pplying for a permit and referring possible emission iolators for appropriate action. Field operations perorm approximately 3000 investigations a year.

AMBIENT AIR MONITORING SECTION

The Ambient Air Monitoring Section is responible for maintaining and operating a statewide air onitoring network. It also supplies technical data or use in the following activities:

- Determining the progress in meeting air quality standards.

- Activating emergency control procedures during episodes of high pollution levels.

- Evaluating pollution trends.

- Evaluating special air quality problems.

- Preparing special analytical and technical reports.

The IEPA operates a statewide air quality monitoring network consisting of over 300 monitors. The network, which operates year round, measures the quality of the air we breathe.

The network monitors the air for a variety of pollutants; the most common of which include: particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, lead and nitrogen dioxide. But the air monitoring section also is increasingly taking on special projects to conduct sampling for toxic pollutants such a polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), nitrosamines, hydrogen cyanide, trace metals and other toxic chemicals.

Illinois residents can be proud of IEPA's efficiency in collecting data. Ranked as one of the best in the nation, the IEPA collects verifiable information with over 90% efficiency. Having such a high percentage of efficiency means that the network is operating with a minimum amount of "down time" and; therefore, providing the IEPA with a complete and accurate picture of Illinois' air quality.

AIR QUALITY PLANNING

Air Quality Planning is responsible for:

- Assuring that Agency programs are adequately designed to achieve and maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and to prevent deterioration of air quality.
- Assisting in the development of programs to protect the public from hazardous air pollutants.
- Conducting and reviewing detailed air quality studies, often using state-of-the art computerized air quality models.
- Proposing and supporting regulatory revisions where they are necessary to attain or maintain healthful air quality.
- Performing ambient air quality impact analyses.
- Working with local planning agencies to ensure that air quality is protected.

Air Quality Planning reviews all proposed changes in regulations pertaining to air pollution control to identify significant issues which relate to: air quality impact, technological feasibility of emission control, and socio-economic impact. Federal requirements and regulations are examined for their potential impact on the operational aspects of the Illinois Air Program. Literature reviews are also conducted to identify current information relating to: air quality impact analysis, the health effects of various contaminants, and stationary and mobile source emission control technology.

If you would like more information on the activities of the Air Pollution Control Division, please contact:

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